



Director of
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National Intelligence Daily

*Thursday
23 September 1982*

State Dept. review completed

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CPAS NID 82-2231X

23 September 1982

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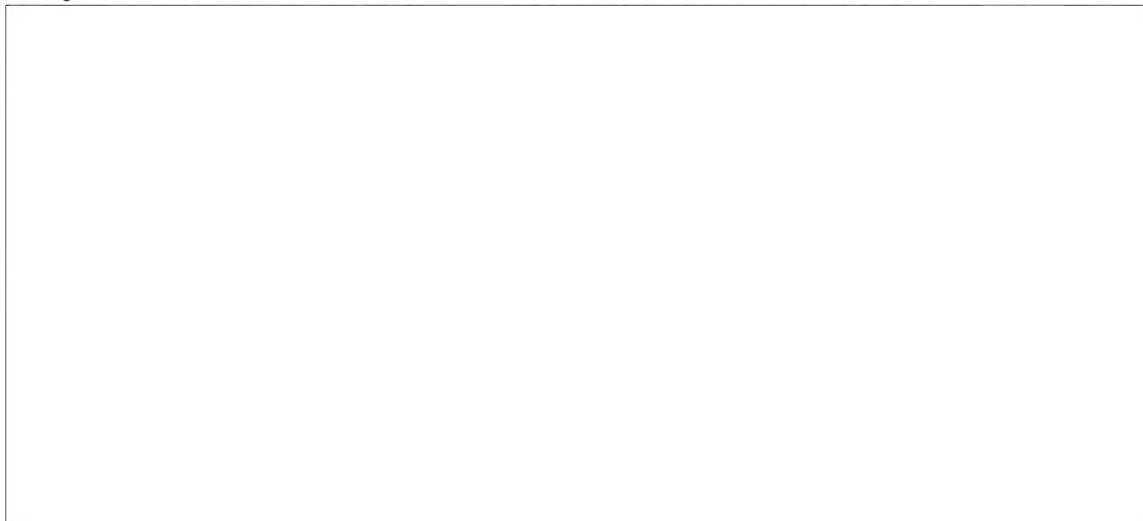
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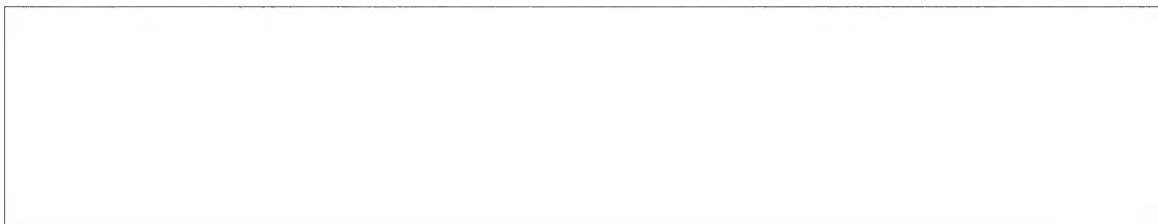


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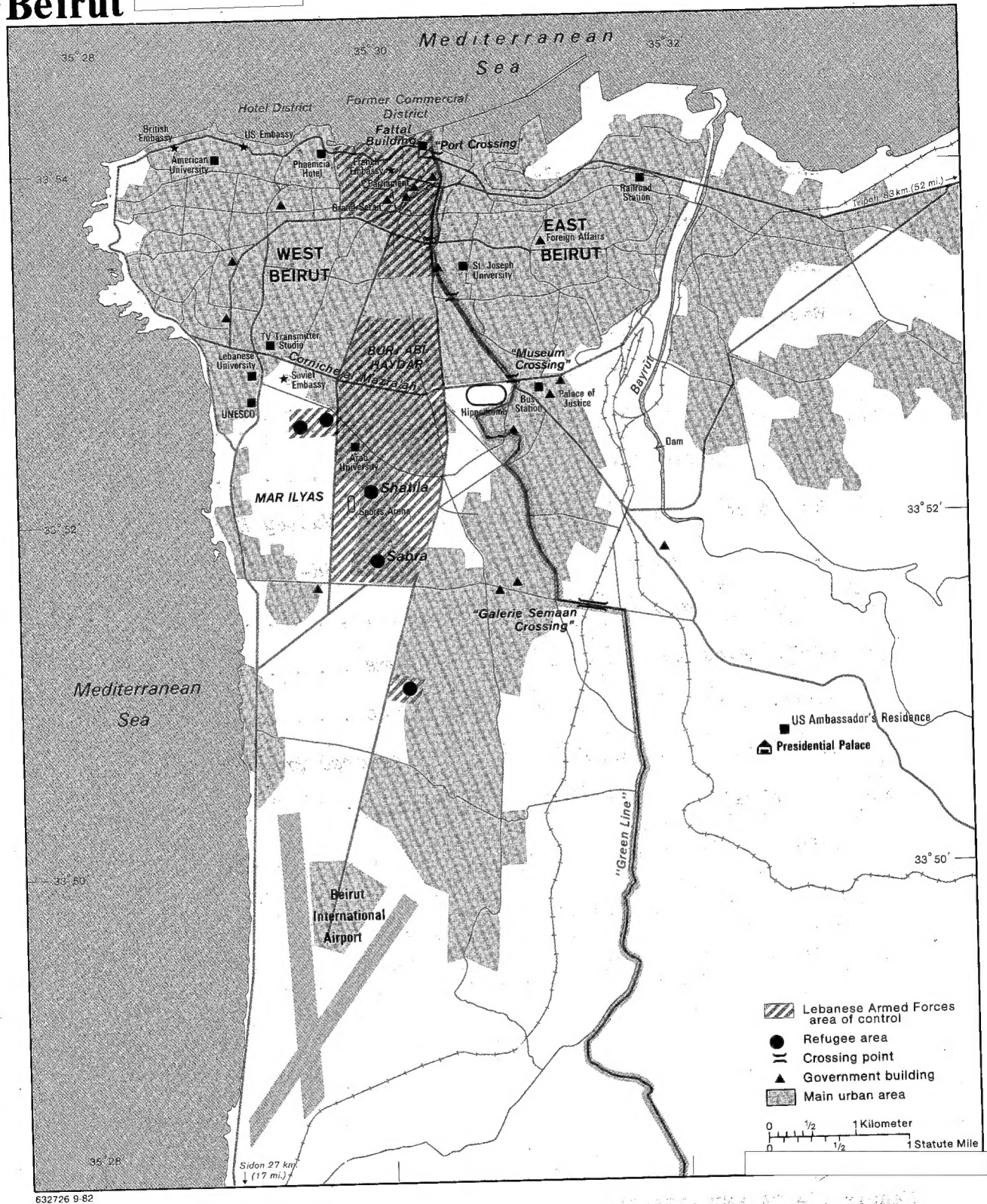


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Beirut

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ISRAEL-LEBANON: Israeli Withdrawal From West Beirut

Israeli troops are gradually turning over areas of West Beirut to the Lebanese Army

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Israel has agreed to a staged withdrawal of its troops from West Beirut. The remaining Israeli-controlled area will be divided into five roughly equal sections, one of which will be turned over to the Lebanese Army each day.

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The turnover is tentatively scheduled to be completed on Sunday. In accordance with the plan, Israeli troops withdrew yesterday from the Burj Abi Haydar and Mar Ilyas neighborhoods.

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Comment:

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The withdrawal schedule, however, will ensure that the Israelis are out of the areas in which the multinational force is to deploy before the expected arrival of the US Marines. The French and Italians will each contribute about 1,000 troops to the force, but the exact timing of their deployment has yet to be decided.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] ARAB STATES: Diplomatic Efforts

Arab leaders are trying to pursue the peace initiative formulated at the recent summit in Fez despite the heightened emotion and rhetoric caused by the massacre in West Beirut. [redacted]

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Local press reports state that the seven-member summit committee charged with seeking international support for the peace initiative met in Tunis on Tuesday--concurrently with the Arab League foreign ministers' conclave--and drew up an unspecified plan of action. [redacted] the US Embassy in Tunis says agreement was reached to send a delegation from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Morocco, and Tunisia to Washington and London next month. [redacted]

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At the same time, Algerian, Jordanian, and PLO representatives would visit France, the USSR, and China. Although details of their planned demarches are not available, the Embassy reports that some foreign ministers may visit Washington soon for preliminary discussions. [redacted]

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Comment: Various Arab leaders, especially the Saudis, are likely to continue urging Arafat to avoid condemning the US peace plan and move toward accepting Jordanian King Hussein as a negotiator with Israel. At the same time, they will expect Washington to get Israeli forces out of Beirut and to sustain pressure on Tel Aviv to move the US proposal forward. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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FRANCE-CHAD: Paris Seeks Improved Ties

The Mitterrand government is taking some steps to improve strained relations with Chadian President Habre. Cooperation Ministry officials will arrive in N'Djamena next week to discuss the possibility of increasing French humanitarian and technical assistance and of opening limited direct budgetary support.






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Comment: Policy toward Habre remains a contentious issue in the French Government, but advocates of closer ties apparently are gaining the upper hand. Although the French probably will agree to limited budgetary assistance for the Chadian administration, they are likely to resist any demands for large-scale support. Some French officials are concerned about Habre's efforts to improve relations with the US, but top French policymakers evidently favor close coordination with Washington on Chadian issues, particularly on arrangements for a UN-sponsored donor's conference.

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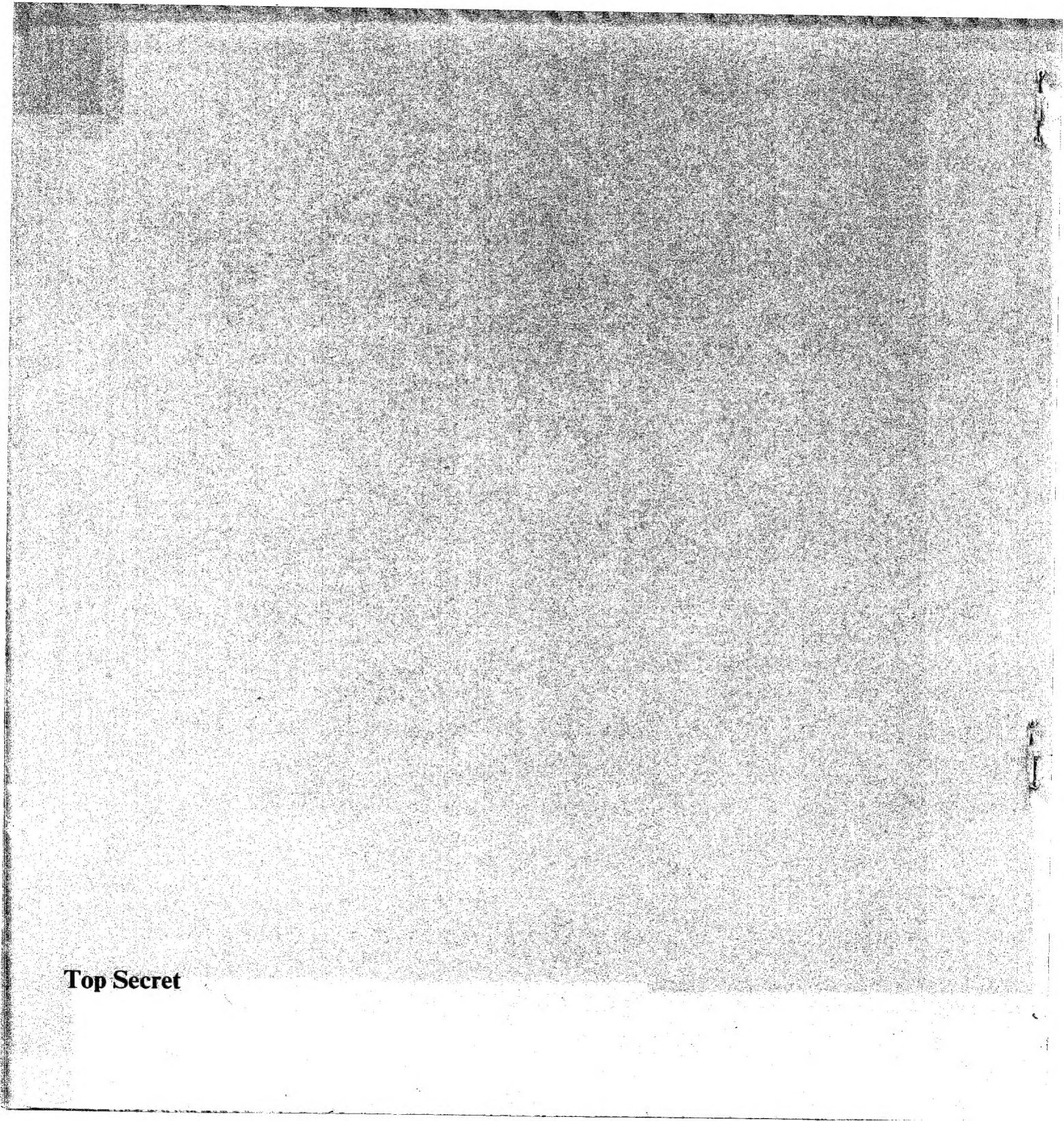
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